

AMONG the early institutions of Plumas County was the migratory court of his Honor, Squire Bonner.

In the summer of 1862 an appreciative public elected Thomas Bonner justice of the peace in Quartz township.

He was not the only early-day justice in the county, for the records of Butte show that Edwin Fitch in 1851, J. B. McGee in 1852, and William Robertson in 1853, all qualified as magistrates in Quartz township, while S. R. Horton, Samuel Carpenter, D. F. Hill, Lewis Stark and H. M. Gaskley did the same in Mineral township during the corresponding period.

Squire Bonner, however, seems to have been the only one of the lot who made any special effort to discharge the duties of his office.

Justice, as he impersonated her, was not merely a blind goddess, standing with balances and sword, by her altar, ready to hear the plaints of the afflicted.

Far from it. She was rather a lynx-eyed detective; or, more properly speaking, a knight-errant, going from place to place seeking for an opportunity to apply the balances and use the sword.

Realizing that but little business would come to him at Holmer's Hole on Rush Creek, where he resided, Squire Bonner put his "justice shop" on wheels, metaphorically speaking, and traveled from camp to camp in search of controversies upon which to adjudicate and collect the fees.

Many are the tales that the old-timers love to recount of this worthy justice and his pioneer methods of dispensing "gilt-ed" law to the guileless miner.

On one occasion, fully equipped, he made his appearance at Nelson Point, and announced himself as prepared to deal out justice with a liberal hand to all who felt themselves in need of the commodity.

Before his Honor promptly appeared one Ramshire, who wished to sue for a writ of restitution and the recovery of \$500 damages, the defendant being an individual who held adverse possession of a mining claim to which the plaintiff felt himself entitled.

The arrival of the wandering "J. P." at the particular time in question served to prevent a personal encounter between the rival claimants, for they were on the point of settling the question of ownership on the field of honor when Bonner made his appearance on the scene.

The two men then wisely decided to let the law take its course and the suit was duly commenced, to the great dis-

ple at large, and a meeting was at once called that this might be done. After considerable debate a committee was appointed to wait upon the dignified justice and request him to adjourn his court sine die.

The members of the committee, which consisted of J. H. Whitlock, chairman, Dr. Vaughan, John Bass, Dr. Lewis and Hiram Walker, walked into the court and the chairman thus addressed the worthy magistrate:

"May it please your Honor, I have been instructed by the people of this camp to say to you that we can find no precedent in law by which the defendant in a civil suit can be compelled to give security either for costs or damages in advance of judgment."

"Have you finished, sir?" demanded Bonner, adding, in a towering rage: "This court would like to know whom you represent in this case, sir?"

"I represent the people," coolly responded the spokesman of the miners.

"The people have nothing to do with the case," shouted Bonner. "My ruling must be complied with or the parties will be bound over in contempt of court."

"If this court chooses to place itself in contempt of the people," answered the miners' champion, "it must take the consequences. In the name of the people I now command you to adjourn this court and not to convene it again."

The uproar which followed was terrific and long continued. In fact, it was nearly supper time before something like order was restored. Then the justice's voice was heard above the roar of the crowd ordering an adjournment until 10 o'clock the following morning.

During the night, however, Bonner evidently came to the conclusion that discretion was the better part of valor, for long before the hour fixed for the resumption of the trial the careful judge was seen ascending the mountain, his legs dangling on either side of a patient pack mule.

He had a seat of justice in Onion Valley, many feet higher in the air than the river, and this he called his "higher court," where he sat to hear appeals from his own decisions in the lower tribunals.

Here he continued the case without the presence of the defendant, and gave judgment, but was unable to enforce it or to collect the desired costs.

At another time Bonner undertook to hold court at Rock Bar, but he there so infuriated the miners that he was obliged to even more hastily adjourn proceedings to his higher court in Onion Valley.

Bonner sent his constable, Tom Schooley, to Rich Bar in 1863, to serve

FORGOTTEN NAVAL HERO.

Samuel Tucker of Revolutionary Fame Sleeps in Maine.

In a peaceful spot on the coast of Maine is a humble cemetery. It is an acre or two in extent, and slopes toward the east. The blue summits of the Camden hills arise in the distance. The bright waters of a river slide through the woods near by. Birch and pine are growing up all over the place and among the graves. There is hardly a human habitation in sight. In a lowly corner of this pleasant though sadly neglected burying ground is a mound with a slate headstone. The stone bears the once conventional urn and willow, and on it are carved these words:

In Memory of
COM. SAMUEL TUCKER,
Who died March 10, 1833.
A Patriot of the People

There is nothing about the grave or its surroundings, except the abbreviation of a naval title, to show that the occupant of the mound was distinguished above the rest who sleep near him. Yet beneath this green sod lie the bones of one who was a hero in strength of mind and body, a man of lion-like bravery, one of those grand patriots on whom Washington leaned as on Knox, Putnam and Greene; one who ranked with Jones, Decatur and Hull, and with them humbled the pride of England, and made our flag a power to be respected on the seas.

Commodore Tucker's name is to be found in hardly a history of our country. With few exceptions, the cyclopedias find him unworthy of a place in the lists of soldiers and sailors. Yet probably no officer of the revolution was more uniformly successful than he. With possibly one exception, he took more prizes than any other man, and in fertility of invention, in daring, in loyalty, in timeliness of efforts, he had no peer, while surely no other of the heroes of '76 was so brutally treated by an ungrateful country, and no other has been so coolly relegated to oblivion as this noble soul.

Samuel Tucker was born in Marblehead, Mass., Nov. 1, 1747. He was the third child of Andrew and Mary Tucker, who had eight children. Mrs. Tucker's maiden name was Mary Belcher. She was an educated English lady of great beauty and winning manners, qualities which were inherited by her son. Andrew Tucker was a skillful and prosperous sea captain, who lived in an elegantly furnished mansion in Marblehead.

Of the years of Samuel's childhood little is known. But we do know that his education was not neglected, for his father wished him to take a college course, and for that purpose placed him in a preparatory school. His penmanship and the style of his letters show that he profited by his instruction. Moreover, when the neglect of an ungrateful country obliged him to labor in his old age he was a skillful teacher of navigation.

Tucker was born in an atmosphere of seagoing excitement. His earliest memories and constant associations were of the sea. The ocean, flecked with sails, was ever before his eyes. The shouts and songs of sailors, tales of peril and strange adventures, were constantly in his ears. It is not strange that the thought of life bounded by a college campus became repugnant to him. At the age of 11 he threw off the restraints of home and parents, ran away from home, and embarked on the Royal George, an English sloop of war, bound to Louisbourg to intercept a French transport. His father either realized the boy's bent for a sailor's life, or thought, perhaps, that a little experience would cure him, as is the case with most runaway boys. He accordingly apprenticed him to the commander of the Royal George, and in 1760, the year that Wolfe died in glory at Quebec, young Tucker began as a child a life of toil and excitement, and commenced a matchless career of naval exploits.—Lewiston Journal.

Are Deformities Outgrown?

It is a matter of common observation that the "bow-legs" and "knock-knees" of young children become apparently straighter as age advances, even when no assistance is given to them. Perhaps it is due to these facts, or possibly to a species of self-delusion, that mothers so often believe that their children will outgrow many slowly increasing deformities, which are consequently neglected, to the children's further hurt.

Certain deformities, when arrested, will apparently grow less or disappear as the growth of the child increases, until as adult age is reached they may cease to be noticeable. But even though the ideal of symmetry be a comparatively low one, a deformity of any moment must be treated early if the body is to be brought up to the average standard, like the tree, the trunk must be taken in hand early, if any natural distortion is to be corrected. Pott's disease, a curvature of the spine due to an inflammation of the joints causing decay of the bones of the spinal column, and hip disease, due to a similar condition of the hip joint, are among the deformities which require treatment at the earliest possible moment.

"Postural deformities," so called, including bow-legs, knock-knees, flat chests, round backs, "hacksle" or loose joints and weak feet, are among those for which most can be done by surgeons and parents. On the other hand, such deformities will be increased if the weak parts are subjected to strain. Thus attitudes producing fatigue at weak spots, attitudes induced or encouraged by uncomfortable seats or by defects of eyesight are common causes of a want of physical symmetry.

Newly acquired postural deformities yield in most cases to simple means which a mother or nurse is capable of applying; but the first evidence of any disease of the bones or joints, such as a limp, a dragging of one foot, or a curvature of the spine should receive immediate attention at the hands of a surgeon.

In general, it may be said that deformities do not tend to correct themselves. Nature exerts herself in other directions. However, a corrective force, though in itself very slight, if rightly applied, may entirely do away with the deformity, or at least aid largely in lessening it.—Youth's Companion.

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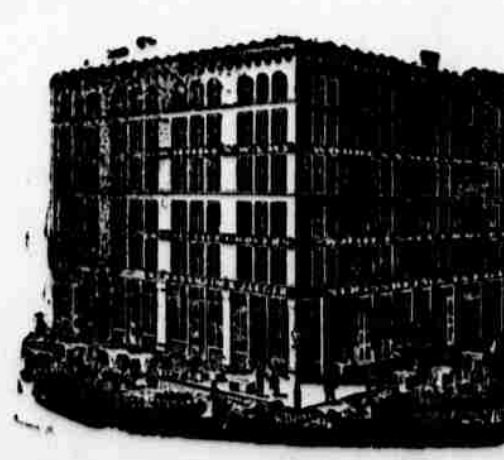
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ON THE WAY TO HIS HIGHER COURT.

satisfaction, however, of many of the miners, who had been accustomed to see all difficulties settled among themselves, and therefore looked upon the invasion of the migratory justice with rather unfriendly eyes.

Just here it should be stated that it was one of the indefensible rules of Bonner's court that the fees must be paid. That was what he held court for, he said, and unless the costs of court were promptly liquidated there could be no joy in life for the worthy justice.

To make it absolutely certain that he should not work in vain, it was his custom to decide against the party whom he judged was best able to pay the costs. Taking his somewhat peculiar view of things, good business principles would not permit him to do otherwise.

It so happened that as the Ramshire case progressed his Honor began to feel uneasy about the costs.

He had understood at the beginning that the plaintiff had nothing, and he early determined, therefore, to decide in his favor, and thus throw the costs upon the defendant. But something caused him to fear that even from the latter he would be unable to collect his fees.

He therefore made an order that the defendant give bonds for costs of suit and \$500 damages, thinking thus to insure himself against the possibility of disappointment.

But this made the defendant suspicious, and as he was not overanxious, anyhow, to have the trial proceed, he refused to furnish the required sureties.

In the meantime the miners composing the large crowd which had assembled to witness the trial had early become indignant at Bonner's methods, and when the mandate in regard to the bonds was issued their anger increased.

It was decided to appeal to the peo-

a summons and attachment on a miner living there.

After considerable difficulty Schooley found his man, and, having made known his business, proceeded to read his papers.

The defendant was surrounded at the time by a number of fellow miners, who, one and all, laid down their implements and listened to the reading. When it was finished they told the constable, in the expressive language of the miners, to "git."

After some hesitation he accepted the advice, but, as he started away, was foolish enough to drop some offensive remark. Instantly the miners started for him with sticks and stones, and, it is asserted, even to the present day, that the very best record of a trip up Rich Bar hill was that there and then made by Tom Schooley.

The trials and tribulations attendant upon his services in Squire Bonner's behalf proved too great for the valiant constable and he soon resigned. Soon after he made his way to Victoria, where he became involved in a difficulty with an English sailor, whom he killed, being in due time hanged for the crime.

Squire Bonner's own official career was brought to an abrupt end upon the formal organization of Plumas County.

Then he took to literature, and in 1856 wrote a history of the life of James Beckworth, the noted mountaineer and trapper of early days, the volume abounding with stories of mountain life and adventure. Soon after publishing this book Bonner left for the southern portion of the State, and in that congenial clime passed the rest of his eventful life in peace and quiet.

If we had to wait until a woman lifted her veil in order to kiss her, we would lose all appetite, and wouldn't kiss her at all.